

CHAPTER 7

Larry goes home

Larry looked at his watch. It was nearly five o'clock in the morning. How could he get the exhibits back to New York quickly? Then he looked at Amelia and smiled.

'Can you fly us to New York in your plane?' he asked.

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Amelia's little red plane, Old Bessie, had a lot of passengers. All the exhibits from the Museum of Natural History were there in the back. They were all excited.

As they flew out of the Air and Space Museum, Larry waved at all his new friends in the Smithsonian below. Then he looked at Amelia. She looked really happy and alive. This was her real home, he thought. Up here in the air.

They soon landed outside the museum in New York. All the exhibits got out of the plane.

Amelia looked at Larry. 'It's time for me to go,' she said sadly.



'Amelia, I was trying to tell you ... This isn't easy ...'
Larry looked into her eyes.

'Ssh!' said Amelia. 'I know. I've always known. But I've had a fantastic adventure. Thank you!'

Larry pulled her close and kissed her. 'Goodbye,' he said.
'Remember, have fun!' said Amelia.

She smiled and got into her plane. Soon she was high in the air and flying over Central Park.

'Oh no!' said Jedediah from Larry's pocket. 'She's going towards ...'

'Canada!' said Octavius.

Suddenly the plane turned.

'Washington!' said Larry.

Larry turned to the exhibits. 'You must all go downstairs to the rooms under the museum,' he said. 'No one must know you are here.' He gave them the tablet. 'And take this back to Ahkmenrah.'

The exhibits ran back into the museum. Larry followed them. Teddy was very happy to see him.

'Well done, my boy!' he smiled. 'Thank you for bringing them back. But what's going to happen now? They can't stay downstairs.'

'I've got a plan, Teddy. A good one!' Then Larry remembered something. 'Teddy, the secret of being happy – is it doing something you love with people you love?'

The president smiled at him. 'Welcome home, Larry,' he said.

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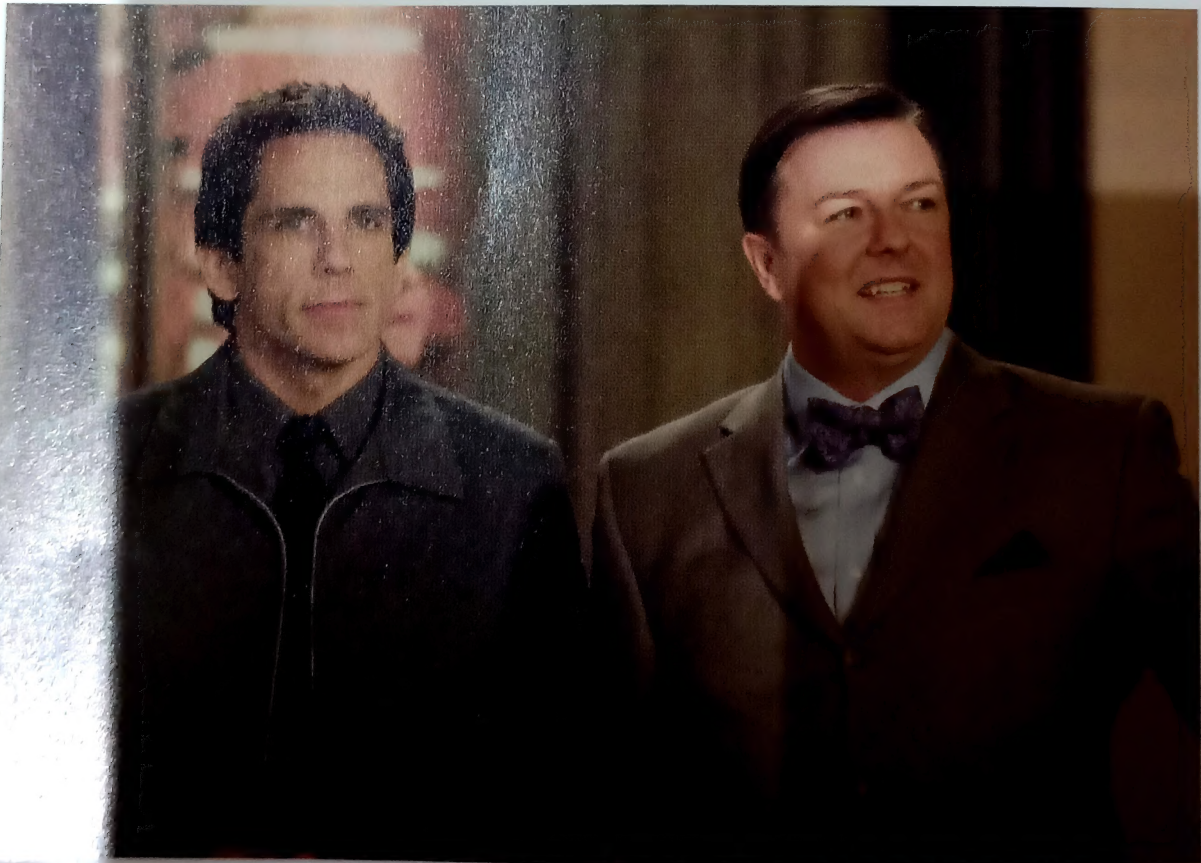
A few days later, Larry was back working in the museum. He was the night guard again. The only difference was, he wasn't alone. It was night time but the museum was full of visitors. Larry watched them all

happily. Teddy was showing a group of people round and telling them about the different exhibits. In a corner some children, including Larry's son, Nicky, sat round Attila the Hun. Attila was waving his hands and shouting strange words. They couldn't understand him, but it was clearly an exciting story!

'This is my home,' thought Larry. 'Like Amelia in her plane. This is where I feel alive.'

Dr McPhee came up. 'I don't understand these new electronics,' he said. 'So, Mr Daley, were you bored with big business?' he asked.

'Yeah, that's right.'



'The world is a strange place,' said Dr McPhee. 'One day we're throwing all the old things away. And then we get lots of money from some rich guy if we keep everything the same!'

Larry tried to appear surprised but he knew all this already. *He* was the rich guy. After selling his business, he

gave the money to the museum. He asked for two things. First, they had to keep the old exhibits and second, they had to open the museum at night. Everyone thought that the exhibits were holograms. But Larry knew different!

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'Hey, Dad!' Nicky ran up to Larry. 'Attila the Hun is really cool!'

Larry smiled. 'Do you want to see something else that's really cool?' he asked. 'Come with me.'

Larry took Nicky upstairs. As they reached the top of the stairs, a small, red plane buzzed past their ears. It was Jedediah and Octavius.

'Look out, big man!' shouted Jed. 'Yeee-haaa!'

Larry and Nicky laughed. A cowboy and a Roman soldier together in a plane! Larry loved this job. Anything could happen during a night at the museum!